

Chills, Cough and/or Cold – Oh My!

Antibiotics only treat bacterial infections. Viral illnesses cannot be treated with antibiotics. When an antibiotic is not prescribed, ask your pharmacist or primary healthcare provider for tips on how to relieve symptoms to make you feel better.

Illness	Usual Cause		Antibiotic Needed
	Virus	Bacteria	
Cold/Runny nose	✓		No
Bronchitis/Chest cold (in otherwise healthy children and adults)	✓		No
Whooping cough		✓	Yes
Stomach flu	✓		No
Strep throat		✓	Yes
Fluid in middle ear (Otitis media with effusion)	✓		No
Urinary tract infection		✓	Maybe
Respiratory flu	✓		No
Sinus infection		✓	Maybe

Antibiotics are not always the answer

Your pharmacist can help you select the right cough and cold medication for you or may direct you to your primary care provider.

